

**Sustainability Advisory Committee on Energy and the Environment
March 17, 2010**

MINUTES

Members Present: Matthew Raker – Chair, Ashley Featherstone- ViceChair, Ryan Blau, Melanie Brethauer, Jane Mathews, Duncan McPherson, Sasha Vrtunski, Dane Barrager
Staff: Councilmember Cecil Bothwell, Maggie Ullman, Judy Daniel, Shannon Tuch, Linda Fowler, Phil Kleisler
Guests: Rick Clemenzi, Judy Siglin, Jennifer Langton

1. Welcome and introduction of Dane Barrager: new SACEE member

Vice Chair Ashley Featherstone noted that Committee Chair Matthew Raker will be participating in the meeting via telephone. Ms. Featherstone then introduced the newest SACEE member, Dane Barrager, who spoke of his background as it relates to environmental sustainability.

The Committee members and SACEE Staff gave brief introductions of themselves.

2. Action Items

- a. The committee by consensus approved the February 17, 2010 minutes, noting that staff will make one correction of the spelling of one committee member's name.

3. Presentations

- a. Building Safety Director Robert Griffin discussed the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) training Building Safety staff received at Warren Wilson College, Sustainable Residential Fee Rebates and plan review fees. The committee then discussed LEED Certification of City buildings, and if this certification can be stringently enforced locally; Mr. Griffin commented that 1) approaching the Building Safety Council would likely not work and 2) state legislators would likely not support this because any change in this code would alter the uniform State Building Codes.

Mr. Griffin then spoke on the upcoming International Code Conference in Charlotte, N.C. (October 2010). Following this the Committee discussed the topic of code enforcement in Asheville.

4. Discussion

- a. Maggie Ullman spoke on how the City's PACE program originated, then a general update on the program. There will be a community input session regarding the program on April 19th and a draft program description will be presented to City Council on May 11th.

- b. Shannon Tuch explained that at the previous meeting the Committee requested a memo from the planning staff outlining sustainable planning goals and perceived obstacles to accomplishing these goals. The identified goals were:

1. Promoting Urban Density and Form
2. Discouraging Sprawl and Development
3. Incentivizing Affordable Housing and Green Building
4. Encouraging "Complete Streets" concepts in Infrastructure Planning
5. Preserving Asheville's Unique Mountain Landscape and "Sense of Place"

The Committee discussed the third item (affordable housing). Shannon Tuch explained the "Frankenstein Effect" and how it relates to affordable housing. Judy Daniel then spoke on the different districts within the city, the overlapping of their individual uses, and the research that planning staff are doing to address this issue.

Daniel and Tuch both spoke on things that would help the City's Planning and Development Department: Inclusionary Zoning and a different relationship with Buncombe County. Shannon Tuch then touched on partnership developments with the Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) and the Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) in regards to the Sustainability Communities Initiative, which may bring funding opportunities in the future.

The Committee then discussed how the planning memo may serve as an important tool for "Greening the UDO".

5. Staff Report

Maggie Ullman then gave a number of updates: an RFP has been released for the HVC System at the Civic Center and the City's internal recycling program will be started on Earth Day 2010. The Committee then discussed the potential methods of marketing the recycling program. Staff are also continuing to move toward the Internal Energy Savings Reinvestment Program and having a dialogue with the Finance Department regarding this in late March.

6. Public Comments

Will there be any materials available for the April 19th Community Input Session? Maggie Ullman responded that there will not be materials available prior to the session, but there should be a general announcement prior to the event.

7. Next meeting April 21st at 3:00pm in the Public Works Building.

8. The Committee meeting adjourned at 4:46 PM.